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# THE MINT MASTER

**August 2021**

**Volume 69 Issue 8**

# UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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Hospitality Richard Blaylock & Lamar Kemp

# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE — August 2021

## Mike Rek

**Hello Everyone,**

**Thank you for everyone showing up at the picnic. Thanks to Don & Ron Swain for the coin giveaway. We had a lot of fun with snow cones and good food. Thanks to Sherry for the drinks. Well see everybody at the Columbus Center at 7PM on August 10th.**

**Mike Rek**
**President**

**Kelly Finnegan will be conducing this months meeting and also speaking about the minting process.**

## Contents & Agenda For August 2021


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Greetings - Kelly Finnegan | Postal Coinage | 4-7 |
| Mini Exhibit - TBA | Misplaced Dates | 10-11 |
| News & Views - TBA | Cull Of The Wild | 16 |
| Coin Quiz - TBA | Monster Boxes | 18-20 |
| Refreshments - TBA | Prizes | 21 |
| | Book Review | 22 |
| | Editors Message | 27 |


## August's Meeting August 10th 2020 7PM

## Meeting location is:

**Columbus Center 2530 S. 500 E., Salt Lake City (enter thru patio in rear)**

# POSTAL COINAGE

## Douglas Nyholm

This month I would like to discuss a somewhat unknown coin, or rather pattern coin. Specifically the "Postage Currency" coins struck in Philadelphia in 1863 in the midst of the Civil War. Of course most of us are familiar with the Fractional Currency printed in various denominations from 3 Cents to 50 Cents due to the hoarding of small denomination silver coins. During the Civil War speculation of both gold and silver in addition to the war itself made the hoarding of coins and metals a huge problem, especially in commerce and in daily monetary transactions.

The Fractional Currency began on August 21, 1862 and lasted through five issuances ending on Feb 15, 1876. Obviously this is well beyond the end of the Civil War but the scarcity of specie and ongoing monetary difficulties did not end with the conclusion of the war.

One other interesting item which resulted from the crisis of the Civil War was Encased Postage brought about by Mr. J. Gault and his patent for a container holding U.S. government issued postage stamps which could be used as currency. Advertising was usually engraved on the back side which made a small profit and paid for the cost of the holder. These holders were important to extend the longevity of the flimsy stamps in commerce which actually were well accepted and circulated widely.

Two other items utilized as currency during the Civil War were 'Postage Envelopes.' These were small envelopes which contained a specific dollar value of postage which would be printed on the envelope along with merchant advertising and would circulate as face value.

The other item, which we are all familiar with, are the thousands of usually copper Civil War Tokens generally valued at one cent each. Although not a precious metal they were widely used due to the shortage of specie spilling over even to the lowly one cent coinage.

Back to the Postage Coins which most collectors have never seen let alone own an example. Just what are these patterns? In my library I have s book written by David Cassel documenting these rare patterns. They

were struck in 1863 as a 10 cent value (or dime) denomination. If one looks at the Judd pattern reference book they are listed at J-325 to J-330a 1863 dime. There are 10 different types. The certified population of all 10 types is less than 100 examples. They were made of several metals including silver, copper, aluminum, tin and nickel. A shield design is on the obverse with EXCHANGED FOR U.S. NOTES, while the reverse is composed of lettering stating POSTAGE CURRENCY / 10 CENTS / 1863 / ACT OF JULY 1862.

J-643 to J-646 have the date of 1868 but according to David Cassel they were actually struck in 1863 from a die erroneously dated 1868.

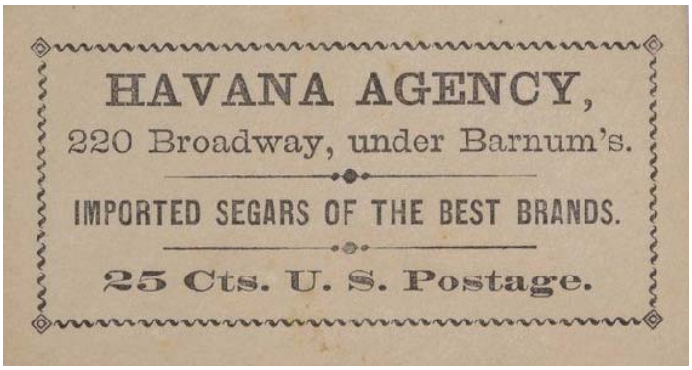
A lot that occurred during this period not only dealt with the Civil War but also the intrinsic value of circulating coinage. These problems led to different weights of our coinage. Different coinage metals especially nickel and aluminum were experimented with including what would be accepted by the general public.

These Postage Coinage coins were a result of many experiments, and other than a few pattern coins obviously never made it to mainstream coinage designs.

The Judd pattern book is filled with over 2,000 listed patterns for U.S. coinage. Most during the mid to late nineteenth century were not much more than the engravers whim as to what might be, and even some were created solely for connected collector's of the time. These Postage coins actually were created to possibly have a public use during the tumultuous times during the Civil War, and the shortage of specie caused by hoarding of just about anything of value at the time.

David Cassel wrote his original book which was only published to the extant of 100 copies, and his subsequent revised edition in 2007 which was limited to just 30 copes. I am lucky to have copy #27 of 30 in my library

His research was incredible which for these few patterns his book covers 250 pages.




POSTAGE STAMP ENVELOPES.—Small Envelopes, for inclosing Postage Stamps, when used for change. For sale by THOMAS GROOM & CO. Stationers, 82 State street. jy 29

[*Boston Daily Advertiser*, July 31, 1862]

**Shown above are two examples of the very scarce postage envelopes which circulated as specie during the Civil War**

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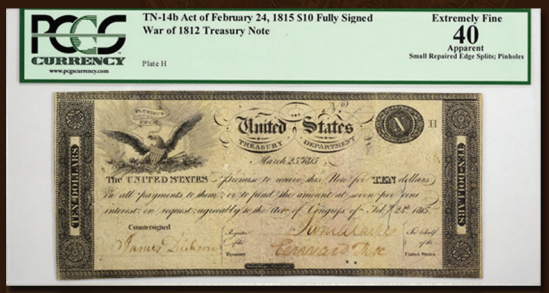


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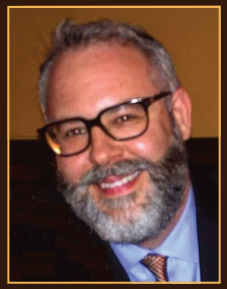

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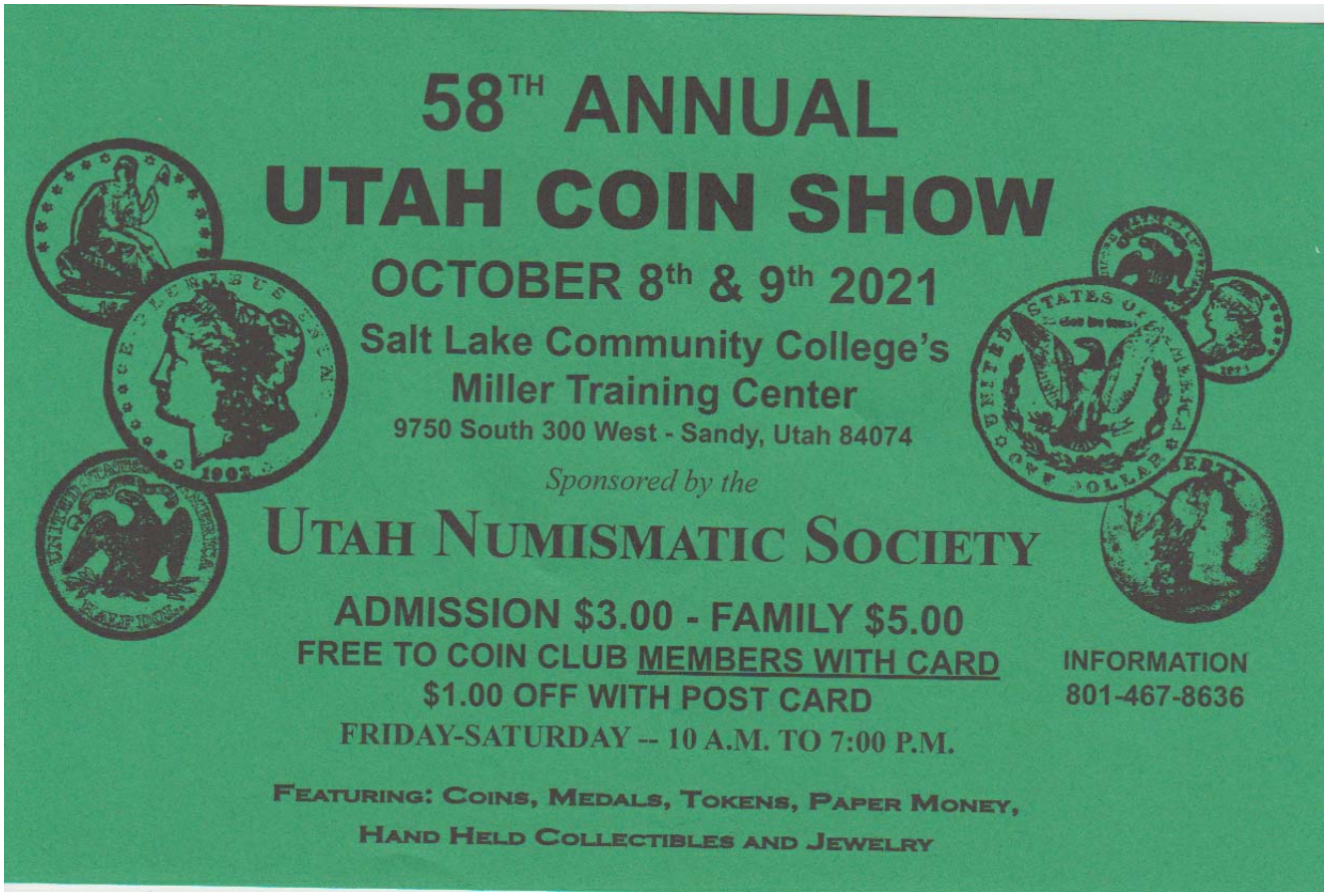
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# 2021 UNS MEETING SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MAY (INSIDE)<br><br>UNS Birthday / Proof Set Display<br>UNS Medals<br><br>Members – Memories/History | JUNE (OUTSIDE)<br><br>Youth Night<br>Junior Board Member Organize<br><br>Contact PCGS/ANA/US Mint<br><br>NUTS COIN SHOW | JULY (OUTSIDE)<br><br>Picnic | AUGUST (OUTSIDE)<br><br>Speaker – Kelly Finnegan Minting Process |
| SEPTEMBER (INSIDE)<br><br>Grading<br><br>Board Meeting | OCTOBER<br><br>Speaker – Brent Ashworth<br><br>UNS COIN SHOW | NOVEMBER<br><br>Auction<br><br>Board Meeting | DECEMBER<br><br>Christmas Dinner |

# MISPLACED DATES

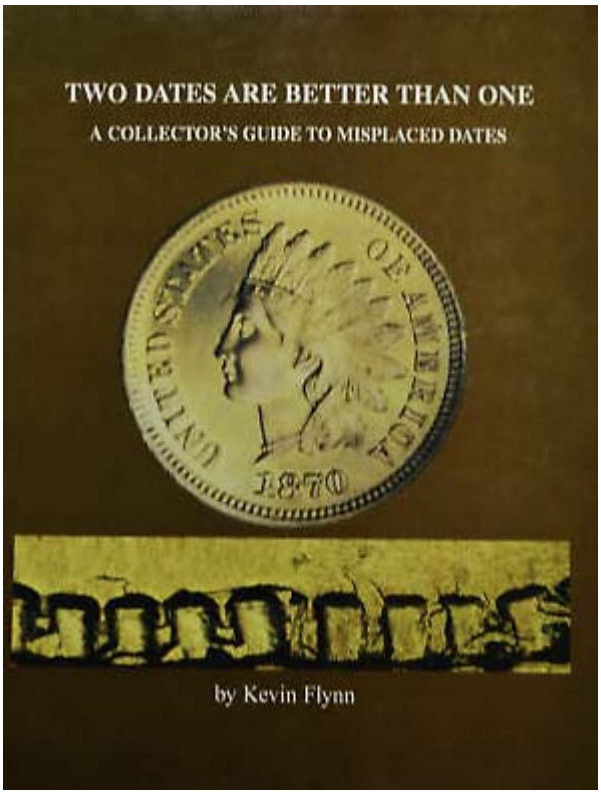
## Doug Nyholm

I was recently looking through my numismatic library and pulled the book "Two Dates Are Better Than One, A Collectors Guide To Misplaced Dates" off my shelf. This book was written in 1997 by Kevin Flynn and is a whopping 512 pages.

We are all familiar with various errors such as (RPD) re-punched dates, (RPM) re-punched mint marks, re-engraved dates, (DDO/DDR) double dies, (OMM) over mint marks and most are relatively easy to identify. Many are even included in the Red Book and/or the various issues of the Cherry-Pickers guides and are simply what the description implies. A re-punched date is where one or more of the date digits show as a shadow of the digit under a stronger numeral either re-punched or re-engraved. Even re-punched mint marks occur from the late 19th century with some well known examples occurring on several Morgan Silver Dollars and also other denominations. Even modern Lincoln Cents and Jefferson Nickels offer examples of double mintmarks such as D over S or S over D.

Misplaced dates are a bit different and occur from the early 1840's until 1908. After 1908 the date punch was applied to the die before they were shipped by the Philadelphia facility. Why not before or after is one of the main topics of this book. There are several explanations discussed regarding these strange misplaced dates but no one has a 100% conclusive and detailed definition that explains without a doubt all that is encompassed with the creation of these misplacements. Fist of all, what exactly is a misplaced date? Simply, it is a date that isn't supposed to be where is should be. Other than a simple position-ing error where the date is too high, too low, or to far left or right, it is a date that shows up in a different position other than where the normal date should be. Date punches were either single digit numerals or a 4-digit complete date punch which were punched into the die after the central devices were applied from the master hub. As I said, the anomaly was first seen in the 1840's as master dies were often shipped from Philadelphia to the branch mints or actually used at the Philadelphia mint where the date was applied to the actual die prior to being placed into use on the coin press. Before 1840 many similar steps were accomplished especially with the early Bust Halves as there are many overdates for almost every year. Overdates are very different from misplaced dates however. They were done primarily to extend the life of a perfectly good die beyond the year it was initially intended. Die steel was expensive and many times in short supply. With the advent of the steam press in 1836 and the increased demand for coinage, production quantities were

greatly expanded and many more dies were required by a factor of at least 10 or more. 4-digit date logotypes became increasingly used and usually apprentices were employed in punching the date logo into the die. When you observe a coin such as a Indian cent where many misplaced dates occur, the possibility of punching the date incorrectly in such a small area can be seen to be somewhat easy. A 1/10 of an inch offset of the bulky date punch could easily cause the digits to be placed south of where the date should be and into the denticles of the coin. One explanation when this occurred it was probably just an "oops" moment and the die sinker just moved the punch up to the proper position and re-punched the date position where is was supposed to be. Who would ever notice. One other theory is that prior to the date being punched the die would be annealed, or heated, in order to accept the punch more easily. This second theory suggests that the punch was intentionally struck at the very edge (or denticles) in order for the person punching the digits to gauge just how much pressure or hard the strike required should be to set the digits properly.




Every denomination of coin including gold with the only exception being the silver three cent coins has been found to have partial digits located in the denticles below the actual date. Also the large majority of coins exhibiting these misplaced dates are smaller diameter coins such as Indian Cents, half dimes or dimes. The sections of the book relating to dates in denticles for Indian cents comprises 156 pages and the half dimes and dimes section comprises 75 pages, virtually half of all illustrated coins listed. The primary reason is that due to the small size of these coins it would make it easier to mis-place the punch for the date or numerals.

Finally, the survival and identification of these coins which misplaced dates can be done but due to wear and usually only the very top of the digits visible at the denticles observation are made very difficult. This error would be much easier to observe on an AU or BU coin. It is also recommended that you use at least a 10x or even a 15x loop when looking for this error. Who knows, you may have one or more of these hiding in your own collection. Chances are that you have never even looked for a misplaced date in the denticles of your coins.

THE DATE ABOVE IS A RE-PUNCHED DATE AND NOT THE SAME AS ONE PLACED IN THE DENTICLES

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1911-D Five Dollar
MS65 PCGS. CAC

1792 Eagle-on-Globe Quarter
Judd-A1792 Die Trials
White Metal, Unique
AU53/XF45 PCGS

1804 Five Dollar in Copper
Judd-31a, R.8
MS63 Brown PCGS. CAC

1875 "Sailor Head"
Five Dollar
Struck in Gold

Judd-1438, R.8
PR65 Cameo PCGS

1877 Fifty Dollar in Copper
Judd-1547
PR64 Brown PCGS. CAC

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# Irvin (Irv) Hale Ratcliffe

Irvin Hale Ratcliffe was born in 1930 in Roanoke, Virginia. As the third of eleven children he learned to work hard at an early age. When he was ten years old, one of his chores included walking some distance to a neighbor's house to buy milk. His mother would provide him with Indian Head Pennies, Buffalo Nickels, and the occasional Standing Liberty Quarter. Irv was fascinated with these older coins.

Money was very tight at the Ratcliffe farm, but on rare occasions his mother would give him an old well-worn coin. Irv treasured these coins and the special bond with his mother, and it was at this young age that his interest in collecting started. However, Irv did comment that as a youth his collection was always safe until summer arrived and the ice cream man came by the farm.

Irv moved to Utah during his youth and was educated at Weber College (Weber State University) in Accounting and Social Work. He was a devoted husband and father to his four children. Irv's interest in collectables continued after working with Alvin Rust at Chevron, Standard Oil of California. Alvin left to start his own coin shop and Irv became a regular customer and life-long friend. Irv originally loved Lincoln Pennies and Morgan Dollars, but his interests soon expanded to include plates, watches, tokens, and memorabilia from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Irv frequently commented that his biggest issue with collecting was not being able to focus on any single group of collectibles. He had a passion for history and loved being able to hold pieces of it in his hands.

A key part of Irv's passion for collecting was the knowledge he gained and adventures he experienced tracking down his next purchase. He loved researching historical data and visiting unique locations throughout Utah and the western United States. Saturdays were generally reserved for trips that were in part history lessons and treasure hunts. He was as excited about finding a new item as he was about finding a better-quality version of a piece he already owned.

He was also passionate about his coin club membership and was President of the Utah Numismatic Society in 1974. He attended the first meeting of the National Utah Token Society on January 27, 1982 and had genuine pride in his collection of "NUTS" medals. Irv was also able to share his talent when he was asked to be on the committee designing the Bountiful, Utah medal celebrating 150 years as a City in 1997.

Irv loved to share his knowledge about coins, tokens and other collectibles. He frequently exhibited portions of his collection and won 1st Place, People's Choice, and Best in Show multiple times. Irv didn't discuss his awards or display them, but he would often talk about the people he met. However, many people may actually know his wife Danny better because Irv would bring her to the exhibits and then leave her in charge while he went off scouting for his next great acquisition.

Irv commented that he was never more comfortable than when he was with his fellow hobbyists and he took great pride in helping other people learn more about collecting and collectibles. The Ratcliffe Family would especially like to thank Bob Campbell for helping put together this auction. Bob started attending U.N.S. meetings when Irv was President and Bob was a mere teenager, and the two have always had a special bond.

The Ratcliffe Family

**CULL OF THE WILD**

*Modern Day Treasures Culled from Circulation*

by Mont Toronto

Greetings!

Once again, I'm back after a month off, this time because I got married in June. I can confidently state that my wife, Amanda, is the greatest modern day treasure I've ever culled from circulation!

Now, back to business! This month's feature was again prompted from a reddit.com/r/CRH post about a specimen I first learned about last year while searching boxes of quarters.

## THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT

### 2008 P/D - 50c Arizona State Quarter Extra Cactus Leaf

Reddit specimen | Reddit specimen close-up | Error reference | Clean reference

*Images from u/MinHuyCA (reddit.com/r/CRH) (Left and Center-Left) https://markedmoney.tech/2008-arizona-state-quarter-errors-extra-cactus-leaf/ (Center-Right), and https://www.pcgs.com/coinfacts/coin/2008-p-25c-arizona/39044 (Right)*

**Description:** The Arizona state quarter in frequently contains "cuds," or raised metal bumps on the face of the coin resulting from defects in the mint die. Perhaps the best-known of the Arizona state quarter cuds is commonly called the "Extra Cactus Leaf" error, as the cud occurs in the cluster of cactus leaves in the 4 o'clock position of the reverse, creating the appearance of an additional cactus leaf. Compare the center-left close-up of the error with the far-right image from PCGS TrueView of an error-free reverse. The extra blister of metal is the cud, as further identified in the center-right diagram with arrows. This weakness in the overall design has resulted in cuds on this area of the quarter from both Denver and Philadelphia.

**Identifying Marks:** Washington obverse, Arizona State reverse, 2008 P/D mint mark, cud at the 4 o'clock position of the reverse at the base of the cactus.

**URS:** Unknown
**Book Value (PCGS)*:*** N/A--at peak popularity, these errors sold for up to $150 on eBay. Current prices sit around $3-5 for average specimens, with finer examples reaching as high as $30.
**Auction Value:** N/A

As always, feel free to email me at mont.toronto@gmail.com with questions, comments, or feedback.

- Mont Toronto

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## Auction Schedule

### United States Coins and Currency

**Session 1 – United States Coins Part I**
Monday, August 16 • 9:00 AM PT (12:00 PM ET)

**Session 2 – The Byers Collection of Jefferson Nickels**
Monday, August 16 • 3:00 PM PT (6:00 PM ET)

**Session 3 – United States Coins Part II**
Tuesday, August 17 • 8:00 AM PT (11:00 AM ET)

**Session 4 – Rarities Night**
Tuesday, August 17 • 3:00 PM PT (6:00 PM ET)

**Session 5 – United States Currency**
Wednesday, August 18 • 2:00 PM PT (5:00 PM ET)

**Session 6 – Tokens & Medals**
Thursday, August 19 • 9:00 AM PT (12:00 PM ET)

**Session 7 – United States Coins Part III**
Thursday, August 19 • 2:00 PM PT (5:00 pM ET)

### Internet Only Sessions

**Session 8 – United States Coins Part 1**
Monday, August 23 • 9:00 AM PT • StacksBowers.com

**Session 9 – United States Coins Part 2**
Tuesday, August 24 • 9:00 AM PT • StacksBowers.com

**Session 10 – United States Coins Part 3**
Wednesday, August 25 • 9:00 AM PT • StacksBowers.com

**Session 11 – United States Currency**
Wednesday, August 25 • 9:00 AM PT • StacksBowers.com

### Lot Viewing

Costa Mesa, CA • July 21-24 (*By Appointment Only*)
New York, NY • July 29 - August 2 (*By Appointment Only*)
Rosemont, IL • August 7-13 (9:00 AM - 6:00 PM CT)

### Ancient and World Coins and Paper Money

**Session A – World Paper Money**
Monday, August 16 • 10:00 AM PT (1:00 PM ET)

**Session B – World Coins Part 1**
Wednesday. August 18 • 9:00 AM PT (12:00 PM ET)

**Session C – World Coins Part 2**
Friday, August 20 • 9:00 AM PT (12:00 PM ET)

**Session D – The Collection of a Gentleman**
***An Advanced Collection of Greco-Roman Denominational Rarities***
Saturday, August 21 • 9:00 AM PT (12:00 PM ET)

**Session E – Ancient Coins**
Saturday, August 21 • Following the conclusion of Session D

### Internet Only Sessions

**Session F – World Coins Part 1**
Monday, August 23 • 9:00 AM PT • StacksBowers.com

**Session G – World Paper Money Part 1**
Monday, August 23 • 9:00 AM PT • StacksBowers.com

**Session H – World Coins Part 2**
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**Session I – World Paper Money Part 2**
Tuesday, August 24 • 9:00 AM PT • StacksBowers.com

**Session J – World Coins Part 3 & Ancient Coins**
Wednesday, August 25 • 9:00 AM PT • StacksBowers.com

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# MONSTER BOXES

**Doug Nyholm**

Searching the internet shows many different shapes, sizes, and colors of boxes housing bullion from not only the United States but many countries. I have several different ones but it would be interesting to know if anyone actually collects these interesting boxes. We collectors understand collecting and there are many club members who not only collect coins and currency but have other very interesting accumulations of sometimes strange but interesting items. Wouldn't it be interesting to be a billionaire and collect all of these boxes full of the bullion.

The green box shown here is the standard US Silver Eagle Monster Box

The orange one is one which housed US Gold Buffalo bullion

#

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The two boxes above are ones that probably very few collectors have ever seen. The white box on the left holds Platinum Eagles while the gray box to the right is intended for Palladium 1 ounce bullion coins

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**Thanks to Bruce Griggs for acquiring our prizes monthly!**

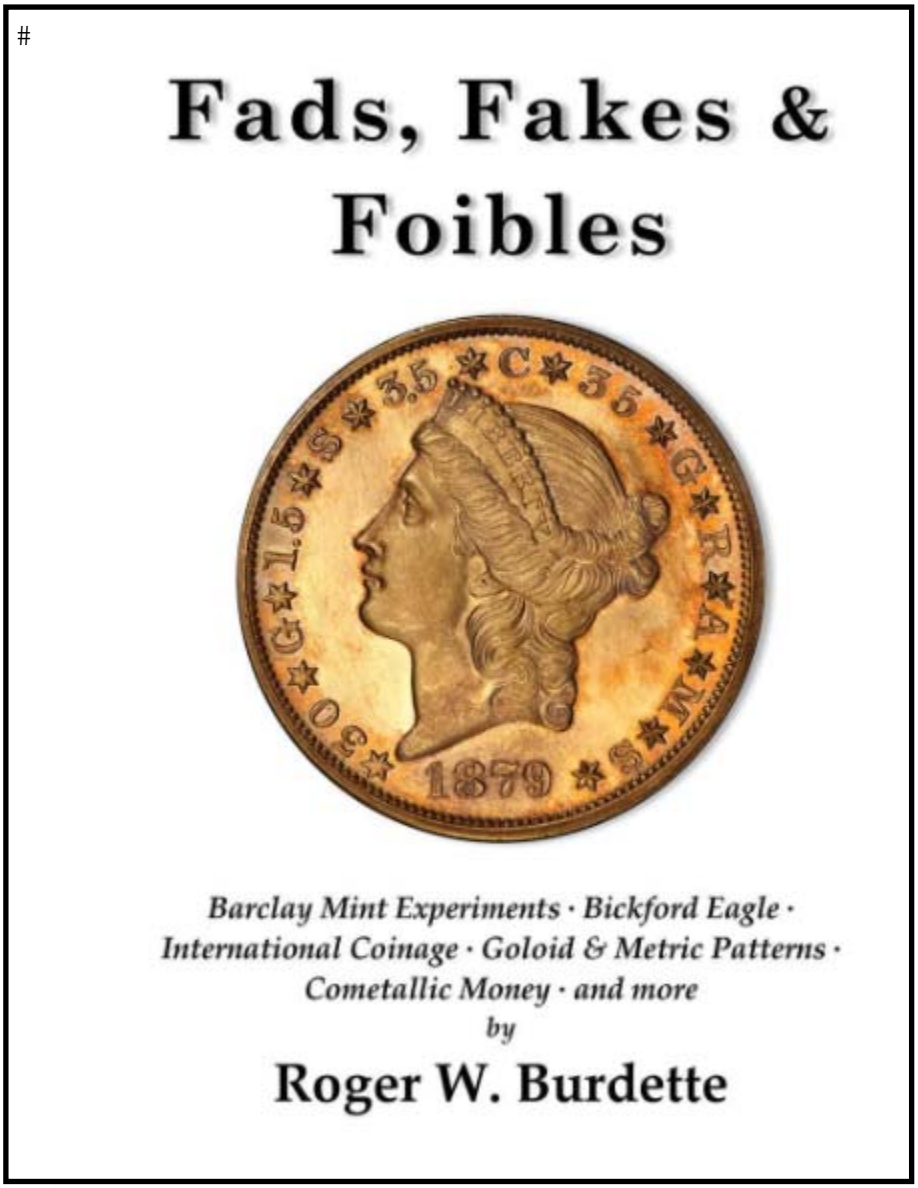
**Promptness Prize:** **2008 Proof set**
**Junior Prize:** **2007 D Washington $ slab**
**Member Prize:** **1914 D Barber Dime**

**1- 1879 S Morgan Sil. dollar**
**2- 2015 March of Dimes PF Comm. Dollar**
**3- Half dollar set Military theme**
**4- 2020 Silver Proof set**
**5- 1953 B & 1963 Deuce $ set**
**6- 1903 Barber Dime**
**7- 1935 A & D series Silver Certs.**

**The Buy of the month is Innovation $'s**

# BOOK REVIEW

#


Fads, Fakes & Foibles
1879
Barclay Mint Experiments · Bickford Eagle ·
International Coinage · Goloid & Metric Patterns ·
Cometallic Money · and more
by
Roger W. Burdette

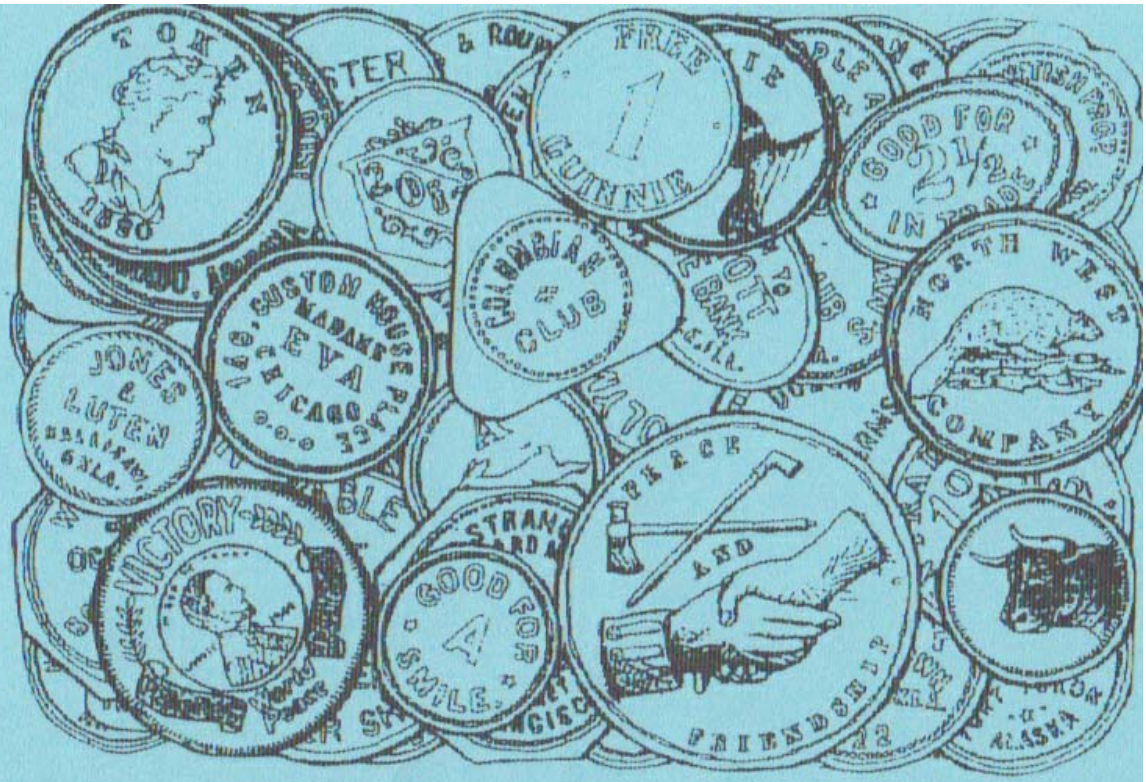
**This book just based upon the title immediately piqued my interest. Written by Roger S. Burdette who has written multiple other books including the three volume "Renaissance of American Coinage" is well known for his research and interesting books.**

**Fads, Fakes & Foibles again covers many subjects that have great historical interest in regard to numismatics. Each chapter is well researched and contains information not easily found elsewhere.**

**To touch on several of the topics covered, one is regarding the Bickford eagle pattern, also covered are the many 'holed' coinage patterns proposed for circulstion and many other stories.**

**Experiments with other metals which were proposed and tested for possible circulation such as nickel, before it became a popular coinage metal, aluminum and goloid composition patterns. The proposed metric designs which were possibly intended as a way to simplify international transactions is also discussed.**

**The book is printed in full color with many illustrations in 8 1/2 by 11 format in hard cover. Its 273 pages are filled with many interesting stories and experiments with what may have been I purchased my copy on eBay for the very reasonable price of $31.15 with free shipping. I definitely recommend this book to anyone interested in numismatic history with and emphasis on the unusual and odd.**

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## PATTERNS

**Questions are based on the 10th edition of the Judd Pattern book**

1. **How many coins dated 1792 are pictured in Judd?**

   A) 4 B) 5

   C) 6 D) 7

2. **In what year was the first Platinum coin created?**

   A) 1814 B) 1862

   C) 1921 D) 1986

3. **The first pattern Gold Dollar was struck in what year?**

   A) 1836 B) 1842

   C) 1844 D) 1849

4. **Flying Eagles appeared on which of the following denominations?**

   A) Small Cent B) Large Cent

   C) Half Dollar D) Silver Dollar

5. **Patterns were created in 1916 for which of the following denominations?**

   A) Nickel B) Quarter

   C) Dime D) Half Dollar

6. **The Amazonian Gold Coinage was created in which year?**

   A) 1864 B) 1868

   C) 1872 D) 1880

7. **The liberty head used on Morgan Dollars also appeared in which denominations**?

   A) Dime B) Quarter

   C) Half Dollar D) Quarter Eagle

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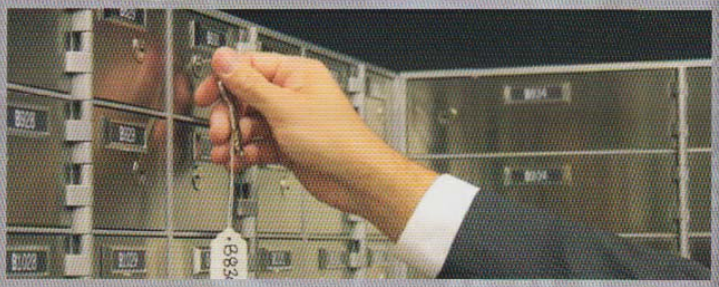

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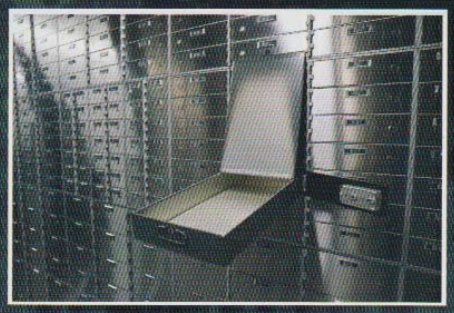

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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

In this edition of the MintMaster I have included some articles which speak of several unusual items. First is the discussion of not Postal or Fractional currency but instead "Postal Coinage" patterns. During the years of the Civil War many experiments and alternative circulating mediums were created. Secondly, the article about 'Misplaced Dates" may be unfamiliar with many collectors. I hope that you readers will find these articles of interest.

I also recently obtained a monster box of U.S. Gold Eagles, unfortunately it is an empty box but cool none the less. The Gold Eagle box is red in contrast to the common green monster boxes made for Silver Eagles. In doing a bit of research I discovered not only are there many different colors of monster boxes for various metals from silver, gold, platinum and even palladium. There are also variances from many other countries issuing their own bullion coins. Several samples are pictured in this edition.

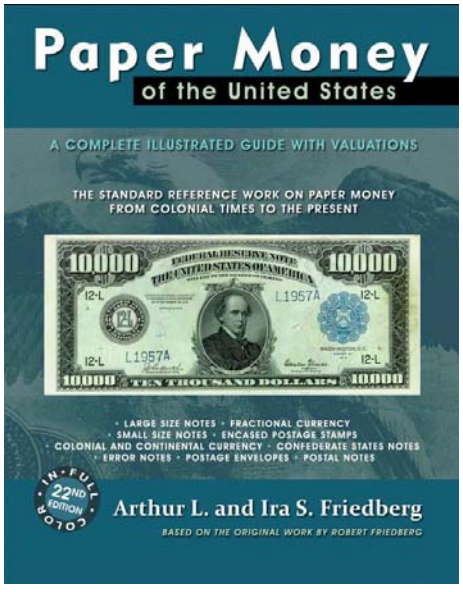
Finally, I had begun as series of articles about Utah Co-op and Mercantile issued scrip. Little is known about many of these issues and my series should resume next month.

We also have an article from Mont Toronto, "Cull of the Wild" in this issue.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer.

Doug Nyholm

Editor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## P.O. Box 65054, Salt Lake City, UT 84165

Name(s) of Applicants:_____

Address:_____

E-Mail:_____

Phone Number:_____

Signature:_____

**ANNUAL DUES**

$30 Family # $20 Adult # $5 Junior / Under 18 #

*By signing this application I acknowledge that I have never been convicted of a felony.*

**Where & When we meet:**

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

Columbus Center / 2530 South 500 East, SLC, UT 84115

The Utah Numismatic Society is now enjoying its 70th year serving collectors in Utah. We sponsor an annual coin show held in Sandy which you may have attended. Our monthly meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday in Salt Lake City. We have many knowledgeable, as well as novice and beginning collectors, in attendance every month.

Our monthly publication entitled "The Mint Master" contains interesting reading featuring articles such as the 'Counterfeit Corner,' 'Book Reviews,' 'Young Numismatists,' as well as many other numismatic news-worthy columns.

Our meetings include Bourse, Auctions, expert speakers as well as our annual "Youth Night" and "Summer Picnic."

We invite you to attend one of our meetings held at the -

Columbus Center, 2530 S. 500 E., Salt Lake City.

**Quiz Answers**

1. **C-6**
2. **A-1814**
3. **A-1836**
4. **ALL**
5. **B, C & D**
6. **C-1872**
7. **A, B & C**